

Message from EMSIP Chief

At the beginning of each year, there is the typical look back at the year that was and 2001 will be a year we will always remember. However, it will not only be remembered for the horrible terrorist acts of September 11, but more importantly, for how EMS embraced injury prevention in their daily operations while working with other agencies and their communities.

In our EMS organizations, we continue to be locked into measuring response times, IV and ET success rates. But what often really matters are such things as caring for one another through helping with injury prevention efforts, kindness to patients, family and co-workers, and having an honest, nurturing environment. I believe EMS Injury Prevention does help each of us to appreciate our family, friends, and community, thus leading us all to providing better pre-hospital emergency medical services.

EMS Legislation

The MICT Standing Orders were finalized on March 13th by the EMS Medical Directors. We received great input from many of you. Mahalo Nui Loa.

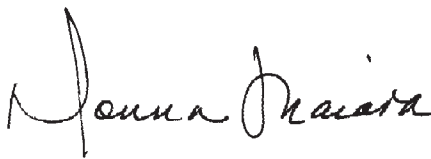
In addition to the booster seat and Hawaii Poison Center bills, the 2002 Legislature has many bills to consider relating to emergency medical services. Of most interest to many of you are additional ambulance services for Kula and Wailea on Maui and Waianae.

Administrative bills include requiring designated Trauma Centers to submit Trauma Registry data to EMS for system evaluation and the injury prevention information system. This measure enables the Department to be compliant with the Federal Patient Confidentiality requirements. A bill to amend the Hawaii Comfort Care Only - Do Not Resuscitate statute to eliminate the requirement that physicians must certify a person has a terminal condition before s/he can receive a DNR bracelet or necklace was also introduced. This would allow a patient to be the sole determinant for DNR decisions.

As you know, the Booster Seat bill was reintroduced this year. The new bill does take vehicles that don't have seat belts to secure the seats and large families into consideration, addressing the concerns the Governor voiced when he vetoed last year's bill. Grants have been received to give booster seats to families who don't have the resources to pay.

A Trauma Grant of \$35,000 was received to assess the Hawaii Trauma System. Dr. Gregory Gifford and Peggy Sale are on board assisting with grant activities. Stakeholder meetings will be held and you can bet I will make sure EMS is at the table.

Aloha to all,



Donna Maiava, Chief
Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention



In Hawaii, two children age four through seven perished, 32 were hospitalized, and 472 required ambulance transport to the hospital as a result of traffic crashes (1996-1999).



Resource Board

In each newsletter, injury prevention resources will be featured. If you have a favorite of your own that you would like to share with your colleagues, we would love to hear from you. Here are the picks for this edition:

Publications

Safe Ride News, a child safety resource for the nation, is published six times a year. The publication is directed toward providing information to parents, safety advocates, and health professionals, with a focus on protecting keiki in traffic as a passenger, pedestrian, cyclist, skater, and skateboarder.

Additional resources from Safe Ride News Publications are reproducible fact sheets, covering 21 topics, for con-

Continued on next column.

Direct medical costs for hospitalization averaged \$15,000 per child. This does not include rehabilitation costs and the human cost to the child, family, and friends.

EMSC Mini-Grants Update

sumers. For more information, visit their web site at www.saferidenews.com.

Childhood Injury Prevention Links

The key to the success of any public health approach to prevention is the creation of a partnership between all sectors of society.

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii (KIPC), who helped organize the recent legislative "walkaround" at the Capitol, is a statewide, community-based organization comprised of broad-based representation from more than 130 organizations, agencies, and individuals committed to preventing injuries to Hawaii's children and youth. You are invited to join the campaign! Contact KIPC via their web site address at <http://www.kipchawaii.org>.

Children using booster seats or child safety seats are four times less likely to suffer a serious head injury than children using seat belts alone.

EMS personnel from around the islands have rallied to the call of duty when it comes to injury prevention efforts. Mini-grants of \$2,000 each, funded by the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Project, have all been awarded for the fiscal year.

LATEST AWARDEES Congratulations to **Ian Santee**, Coordinator, **Belinda Lee**, **Don Takara**, **David Mendonsa**, **Mike Park**, **Korey Chock**, **Mark Edwards**, **Spencer Yamamoto**, **Lorrin Okumura**, and **Jarrett Martin** of **C&C's Metro I Unit** and **Bobby Pedro** (FOS) on their ambitious plans to develop and implement an Explorers Program for high schoolers. Their program will focus on EMS as a profession, injury prevention curriculum, as well as how to provide care in the event of an injury.

ON-GOING EFFORTS A past awardee of an EMSC mini-grant is **EMS Unit 290-KCC (Andy Ancheta**, Coordinator) for their proposal to conduct safety events that educate and encourage parents and their children who ride bicycles and scooters to wear helmets. Their project was titled "Malama Keiki" (take care of our children) and the awardees participated in several bicycle/scooter rodeos, distributed safety helmets, and are now undergoing evaluation of their efforts.

Another awardee is **Scotty Paiva** of the **EMS Division of the Hawaii County Fire Department in Hilo** whose project is the purchase and use of child transport seats in all Hawaii County ambulances. Upon further research, it was determined that additional funding was needed and efforts were undertaken to secure these funds through other grants. A Department of Transportation grant that will be used for the purchase of the seats was recently awarded. The original EMSC award will be used for training and served to stimulate and motivate Scotty to seek the additional funds to complete his project.

AMR - Maui, Medic 6 Hana (Kapena Hill, Coordinator) was also awarded a mini-grant for their pro-

posal to work with youths in Hana, Maui in conducting traffic safety courses and establishing a local Students Against Drunk Driving chapter in their community. Efforts are on hold due to the unforeseen dengue fever outbreak in Hana.

The most recent awardee for the upcoming fiscal year is the **EMS Division of the Hawaii County Fire Department in Kailua-Kona (David Cecil**, Coordinator), for their proposal to create and distribute a video that addresses preventable soccer injuries. EMS personnel are collaborating with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in this effort.

Still in the works for **Honolulu City and County EMS - Waimanalo Unit (Brian Shimabukuro)** is a proposal to create a Keiki Safe 9-1-1 Activity Book that uses interactive games, puzzles, and more to educate children grades three - five to interact with EMS and the appropriate use of the 9-1-1 system.

More than 50% of all poisonings reported to the Hawaii Poison Center involve children and youth.

The Hawaii Poison Center annually responds to an average of 12,000 calls to its hotline.

75% of poisonings can be treated over the phone with advice and assistance from poison center experts.

Answering the Call

News from Around the Islands...

1. Zach Octavio, AMR-Kauai Manager reports that activities continue in a concerted effort to ensure the safety of Kauai's keiki. Medic 21 continues to average one car seat check daily and there were two car seat check-ups at the Safeway complex in February. Another one was held in March, in conjunction with Wal-Mart's Safe Kids Program, with the Kauai Police Department handling traffic flow. Zach also conducted a four-day NHTSA training class, with a three-day class set for May/June. His ambitious goal is to have all five ambulance stations on Kauai as permanent car seat inspection stations. Currently, 16 AMR personnel are certified inspectors, with two ambulance units up and running as inspection stations.

In other news out of Kauai, AMR-Kauai is pleased to announce that **Jovita Sagadraca** is now on board as the new Kauai Injury Prevention Coordinator. She brings to the position a wide range of experience in community education and is a welcomed addition to the AMR-Kauai EMS System and their dedicated injury prevention activities in the community.

2. From the Big Island, Scotty Paiva of the **Hawaii County Fire Department's EMS Division** reports that a consortium of EMS personnel from all Units have partnered with local high schools in conducting CPR classes for interested students. FEO/MICT **Ralph Yamada**, from the South Kohala Fire Station, is coordinating efforts. With six schools signed on, from Waiakea to Konawaena, over 600 students participated in the classes through March, with 500 more scheduled in April and May.

3. William "Speedy" Bailey of **AMR, Hawaii Operations**, has been busy during Hawaii's 2002 legislative session, providing testimony on several bills aimed at preventing unnecessary injuries to Hawaii's keiki. First up, EMS bills SB 2776 and HB 2518, which would enhance the functioning of the State Comprehensive EMS System by authorizing the Department of Health to assist the Hawaii Poison Center in soliciting funding to ensure current 24-hour services are maintained.

EMS support has also been given to SB 2321 regarding amending Hawaii's child passenger safety restraint law to

require children four years of age or older, but less than eight years of age and under 80 pounds to be properly secured in a booster seat.

4. Ocean Safety's Injury Prevention Coordinator **Jimmy Barros** reports that the Hawaii chapter of the Think First Foundation has embarked on a yearlong endeavor to educate Hawaii's youth on the prevention of head and spinal cord injuries. The chapter is comprised primarily of neurologists from the Queen's Medical Center, Ocean Safety Division's Ralph Goto and Jimmy Barros, and Bess Tanabe from the Department of Education. With three presentations and a Saturday seminar during the month of March, Think First was able to expose the concepts of spinal cord injury prevention to over 1,500 high school students and adults.

Jimmy also reports on tentative collaborative efforts with the Hawaii Poison Center. During early March, Jimmy and the poison center's Nia Aitaoto met at Two-Charlie (2C Waikiki), where Nia learned more about a different type of poisoning - jellyfish invasions. Jimmy and Nia hope to join forces in developing future projects focusing on poison prevention activities.

5. The City and County of Honolulu EMS Division continues its efforts in getting the word out about the importance of Emergency Medical IDs for keiki and adults. Current activities, spearheaded by **Georgina Yuen** and **Chris Behasa**, include participation at local health fairs, and visits to health and day-care centers.

6. Curt Morimoto of **AMR-Maui** reports that the first child passenger safety (CPS) technician training class offered through Maui Community College was held in January, with the second scheduled in June. Morimoto, an instructor trainer candidate, took part in the inaugural training class. Another class, for Maui County Fire Department recruits, is set for May. In addition to continued efforts on Maui, upcoming car seat checkups are also scheduled on Lanai and Molokai. AMR-Maui hopes to collaborate with Safe Community of Maui, Inc., in training additional EMS personnel as child passenger safety technicians.



Paramedics Make House (and Senate) Calls at the Capitol for Hawaii's Keiki

No emergencies, no lights and sirens, just dedicated paramedics eager to make a difference.

During the last week of February, EMS personnel joined forces with the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii (KIPC), local law enforcement, and Champions for Children, affiliated with the Good Beginnings Alliance, to educate legislators on bills related to booster seats and the Hawaii Poison Center. They participated in legislative "walkarounds," where these injury prevention-minded teams went from office-to-office at the State Capitol, delivering their messages of safety on behalf of Hawaii's keiki.

Curt Morimoto, Director of Paramedic Operations for AMR-Maui, and a certified child passenger seat technician, took the lead for SB 2321. The bill supports requiring children four years of age or older but less than eight years of age and under 80 pounds to be properly secured in a booster seat. Along with Maui Police Lt. Charles Hirata, members of KIPC, and other certified technicians, Curt not only provided vital safety information about how booster seats prevent injuries, save lives, and reduce medical costs, but also impactful, hands-on demonstrations on their correct usage.

"I feel the walkaround was important," Morimoto said, "because it provided a visual presentation that may have left a positive impression upon those legislators who are otherwise drawing their own conclusions about booster seats without the benefit of important information."

On the poison prevention front, the City & County's Bobby Pedro spearheaded efforts. He teamed with Debbie Ahina, Hawaii Poison Center Director, Amy Shimamoto, the center's lead nurse, and members of KIPC, including EMSIP Chief Donna Maiava, to discuss with key legislators the benefits of gaining statutory authority to maintain a 24-hour poison "hotline."

"A poison center's services have always been essential to the proper functioning of an EMS System," said Pedro.

"The Hawaii Poison Center's staff provides for the early management of poisoning cases and may prevent the need for an EMS response. And in the event of a response, EMS personnel themselves can count on receiving life-saving information from the poison center. In other words, the Hawaii

Poison Center not only assists the community, but EMS efforts as well."

"Bobby was such a valuable presence," replied Ahina. "He shared his viewpoint as one who actually works the scenes of poisoning injuries. This certainly made a strong impact on legislators about the need for, and the value of, the Hawaii Poison Center's services."

It's no surprise that once again, Hawaii's EMS providers have hearkened to the call of duty. "Preventing injuries to our keiki is an EMS priority," said Chief Maiava. "EMS providers do play a vital role in raising awareness and affecting change in policies. Kudos to all EMS personnel who demonstrate limitless dedication, not only in

providing quality emergency medical care to the community, but for going above and beyond in their efforts to keep our keiki safe."

Well said and well done!

On duty for Hawaii's keiki (from top): Bobby Pedro & Senate President Robert Bunda; Sen. David Matsuura & Curt Morimoto; Pedro & Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Bob Hogue & Chuck Hirata; Sen. J. Kalani English, Hirata & Morimoto

